

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251543 TOSEC 160255

FOLLOWING REPEAT ANKARA 7925 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

ATHENS NICOSIA ADANA ISTANBUL IZMIR NATO SECDEF DIRNSA

USNMR SHAPE USCINCEUR CINCUSAFE CINCUSAREUR USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST DTD 22 OCT

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7925

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TU,

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS OF NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

1. IN MEETING OCTOBER 22, AFTER HANDING ME PRIMIN DEMIREL'S RESPONSE

(ANKARA 7917 NOTAL) TO PRESIDENT FORD'S RECENT MESSAGE, MFA

SECGEN ELEKDAG TURNED CONVERSATION TO UPCOMING USG-TURK

NEGOTIATIONS OF REVISED DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

ELEKDAG SAID HE WISHED TO COMMENT AGAIN ON USG CONCERNS

OVER INDEFINITE PROLONGATION OF SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES

ON COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS (CDI'S) HERE. HE SAID THAT

GOT UNDERSTOOD ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL

PROBLEMS THAT CONTINUED IDLENESS PRESENTED FOR US. I INTER-

RUPTED TO SAY THAT I WAS NOT EARLIER SUGGESTING THAT WE WOULD

SUDDENLY

BEGIN REMOVING OUR PEOPLE IN DISILLUSIONMENT OR AS A MATTER

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OF PIQUE, BUT ONLY THAT INEVITABLE PERSONNEL ATTRITION AND

FINANCIAL INHIBITIONS WOULD OVER ANY SUSTAINED PERIOD OF TIME ALMOST CERTAINLY RESULT IN WHAT IN EFFECT WOULD BE A VERY SUBSTANTIAL EVACUATION OF THESE BASES BY US PERSONNEL. ELEKDAG SAID "THAT WOULD BE A DISASTER," ESPECIALLY, HE ADDED, IN THE MIND OF SOMEONE LIKE HIMSELF WHO HAS WORKED FOR SO MANY YEARS TO STRENGTHEN THE US-TURK-NATO RELAYIONSHIP. HE REPEATED THAT THE GOT UNDERSTOOD THESE CONCERNS AND HE SAID HE WAS NOT REFERRING SIMPLY TO THE CIVILIAN ELEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO TO THE TURKISH MILITARY. IN FACT, HE SAID, HE WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT THE SIX WEEKS TIME FRAME WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD MENTIONED TO ME (AS A TARGET FOR GETTING THE MAJOR PORTIONS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED) HAD BEEN MADE BY CAGLAYANGIL AT THE SPECIFIC SUGGESTION OF TURK GENERAL STAFF CHIEF GENERAL SANCAR.

2. ELEKDAG NEXT RECALLED OUR EARLIER CONVERSATION (ANKARA 7873) WHERE WE HAD BOTH AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF A NEW AGREEMENT SETTLED WITHIN SIX WEEKS. NEVERTHELESS, HE ASSURED ME, THIS WAS THE GOT OBJECTIVE AND WOULD BE HIS OBJECTIVE AS THE CHIEF GOT NEGOTIATOR. HE SAID, "IN THE PACKWGE WE PRESENT TO YOU THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE SOME THINGS THAT YOU CAN ACCEPT AND OTHERS THAT WILL HAVE TO BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE NEGOTIATION. MY HOPE IS THAT WE WILL FIND ENOUGH THINGS THAT WE CAN AGREE ON FOR THE GOT TO BE ABLE TO SAY AT THE END OF SIX WEEKS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT AGREEMENTS REACHED TO ENABLE ACTIIVITIES ON THE CDI'S TO BE RESUMED."

3. I SAID THAT I SHARED HIS HOPE BUT THAT I HAD NO WAY OF JUDGING WHETHER THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE UNTIL I HAD SEEN THE CONTENTS OF THE POSITION THAT THE GOT WOULD PRESENT TO US AT THE START OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND I ASKED WHEN HIS SIDE WOULD BE READY TO BEGIN THESE KEY TALKS. BETWEEN TURKISH NATIONAL HOLIDAYS, THE VISIT OF THE SHAH OF IRAN, AND HIS OWN TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA, ELEKDAG SAID THAT IT WOULD BE BERY DIFFICULT TO GET STARTED NEXT WEEK. BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY ATTACHED TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS BY THE GOT, HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD BREAK AWAY FROM THE SHAH'S VISIT SO THAT WE COULD START THESE MEETINGS OFF NEXT TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28. THEREAFTER HE WOULD BE TAKING OFF FOR SAUDI ARABIA, BUT HE SUGGESTED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS PROCEED AT THE WORKING LEVEL AND THEN WHEN CONFIDENTIAL

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HE RETURNED FROM SAUDI ARABIA THE FOLLOWING WEEK HE AND I COULD DETERMINE WHETHER TO RESUME THE DISCUSSIONS OURSELVES OR CONTINUE THEM AT THE WORKING LEVEL.

4. COMMENT: I BELIEVE SOME TURK OFFICIALS ARE NOW SOMEWHAT CONCERNED OVER THE EFFECT ON USG OFFICIALS OF THE GOT FAILURE EVEN PARTIALLY TO LIFT THE SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES ON THE CDI'S IN THE WAKE OF THE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL VOTE. WHETHER THIS

GOT CONCERN WILL HAVE A MITIGATING EFFECT ON THE TURK NEGOTIATING POSITION IN THE FORTHCOMING TALKS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. I REMAIN SKEPTICAL, HOWEVER, THAT AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED ON THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF A NEW NEGOTIATION (THE GOT CONDITION PRECEDENT FOR THE REACTIVATION OF THE CDI'S) IN SIX WEEKS TIME. A BETTER JUDGMENT ON THIS, HOWEVER, CAN OBVOUSLY BE MADE AFTER WE SEE THE PROPOSAL PRESENTED NEXT TUESDAY.
MACOMBER

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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